



Date: May 8, 2018

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Terry Bellamy, Director of Transportation
Subject: Downtown Durham Transportation Study Contract with Alta Planning + Design, Inc.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this item is to enter into a professional services contract with Alta Planning + Design, Inc. for the development of the Downtown Durham Transportation Study. The main goal of the study is to develop a multi-modal transportation vision that maintains and promotes a balanced, complete, safe, and integrated transportation system that meets the needs for all travel modes, while also supporting sustainable development patterns. Proposals to provide the study services were solicited by the City. Staff reviewed the proposals to determine the firms' respective strengths and qualifications and selected Alta Planning + Design, Inc.

The contract cost for professional consultant services is \$399,923.64. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is providing funding for up to \$250,000.00. Federal funds through the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) to the City of Durham will supply 80 percent of the remaining \$149,923.64, or \$119,938.91, and the local matching funds from the City of Durham will supply the 20 percent match to the federal funding, or \$29,984.73. The City's share has been approved by the Council and is included in the FY 2018 budget.

Recommendation

The Department of Transportation recommends that City Council authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Alta Planning + Design, Inc. for the Downtown Durham Transportation Study in an amount not to exceed \$399,923.64.

Background

Downtown Durham has experienced significant growth in recent years. Since 2000, there has been over \$1.2 billion of investment in downtown Durham. More development is currently under construction or being proposed for construction. Durham land use planning projects further growth in central Durham, especially around the proposed transit stations, NCCU, and Duke University. There are also multiple transportation projects that have the potential to affect transportation patterns in central Durham. The East End Connector is under construction with a 2020 completion date. One of the primary purposes of this project is to reduce the growth of through traffic on the major streets through central Durham and provide a faster and more convenient freeway-to-freeway connection between I-85 and NC 147. The widening of Alston Avenue from NC 147 to NC 98 is under construction with a 2020 completion date. The Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit project is in development with a 2029 opening date and will offer a congestion-free alternative to driving from NCCU to Duke University (and beyond) through central Durham. The project will also impact roadway connectivity through the conversion of part of Pettigrew Street to one-way traffic and more at-grade roadway crossings. Downtown parking is increasingly limited and more expensive for people who travel to Durham, and many developers and commuters are looking for lower cost alternatives to driving downtown, including

park-and-ride lots and bus transit service. The residents of central Durham have increasingly requested more pedestrian and bicycle facilities, decreased traffic volumes and speeds through their neighborhoods, and the conversion of one-way streets to two-way traffic. Durham is in the planning stages for the Durham Belt Line, a multi-use path that will arc through central Durham, as well as many other pedestrian and bicycle projects.

Lastly, the legacy of NC 147's construction through Durham, including the destruction of the Hayti community and urban renewal, still has a negative impact on the economy, safety, and connectivity of much of central Durham. Less of the economic growth in downtown Durham has extended south and east across NC 147 due to the physical barrier and lack of connectivity caused by the freeway. The NC 147 interchanges are frequent crash locations, mostly built without adequate bicycle and pedestrian facilities and lacking basic ADA curb ramps, and with little regard to urban design or aesthetics. NC 147 itself is an outdated freeway design with narrow shoulders and closely spaced ramps and tight weaving sections. NCDOT submitted a project for auxiliary lanes and operational improvements on NC 147 to the prioritization process, and it was recently funded as a committed project in the TIP. However, the scope of this project has not been vetted through a local or MPO planning process, and the public may have different expectations for improvements on NC 147. Any changes to NC 147 ramps and interchanges will have a spill-over effect on downtown streets and circulation that has not been examined. This project is proposed for right-of-way acquisition in 2021 which necessitates that a downtown study commence quickly to inform this project and ensure that it is designed to meet the public's desires.

The Downtown Durham Transportation Study will develop a comprehensive plan for addressing multi-modal transportation needs in central Durham that is responsive to the economic growth and land use plans of the City, safety concerns of residents, and transportation accessibility for all users. It will include a forecast of future population and employment growth consistent with the MPO's long-range transportation plan and Durham's land use plans. It will study the impact of the planned and funded transportation projects on the transportation system. It will include setting mobility goals for downtown that may be different from the mobility goals of the larger City or MPO, and developing a multi-modal transportation plan to meet these goals. The inter-relationship of transportation projects on overall accessibility for all residents and visitors will be studied.

Issues and Analysis

The work associated with the Downtown Durham Transportation Study will be undertaken through consulting services. Proposals to provide the professional services were solicited by staff. Eight firms submitted proposals: Alta Planning + Design, Inc., Baseline Mobility, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Kittleson and Associates, Nelson Nygaard, Nspiregreen, SEPI, and VHB. A selection committee reviewed the eight proposals and evaluated them based on the following criteria:

1. The qualifications and experience of the professional personnel to be assigned to the project;
2. The consultant's understanding of the project study area, goals, and objectives;
3. The consultant's proposed approach to the project;
4. The quality of the proposal,

The selection committee reviewed the proposals and conducted interviews to determine the firms' respective strengths and qualifications and selected Alta Planning + Design, Inc. Staff negotiated a scope of services for the study project consistent with the project's federal funding

grant amount as allocated by the DCHC MPO as part of the approved Unified Planning Work Program, the City's local match as approved by Council, and NCDOT's contribution.

The City can accept or reject the proposed contract by approving or not approving the attached Contract between the City and Alta Planning + Design, Inc. If approved, the study is scheduled to begin in July 2018 and be completed within 18 months.

Alternatives

- Authorize the City Manager to execute the contract with Alta Planning + Design, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$399,923.64.
- Do not authorize the execution of the contract. The proposed Downtown Durham Transportation Study will not be undertaken.

Financial Impact

The total budget for the Downtown Durham Transportation Study is \$399,923.64. The DCHC MPO and NCDOT are responsible for their financial obligations. NCDOT is providing \$250,000 for this study. The DCHC MPO's share of \$149,923.64 is available within the MPO's budget. The City of Durham will supply the remaining \$29,984.73 which has been approved by the Council and is included in the FY 2018 budget.

UBE Summary

This is a federally funded project and was not reviewed by the Department of Equal Opportunity/Equity Assurance for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Opportunities in City Contracting.

Alta Planning + Design will subcontract to the following certified firm:

Firm	ID	City/State	Amount	% of Contract
BREE & Associates	MUBE	Raleigh, NC	\$49,500	12.4%

WORKFORCE STATISTICS

Total Workforce:

Employment Category	Total Employees	Total Males	Total Females
Project Manager	6	6	1
Professional	6	3	3
Technical	1	1	0
Clerical	3	0	3
Labor	0	0	0

Total	17	10	7
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Male:

Employment Category	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian or Pacific Islander	Indian or Alaskan Native
Project Manager	6	0	0	0	0
Professionals	3	0	0	0	0
Technical	1	0	0	0	0
Clerical	0	0	0	0	0
Labor	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10	0	0	0	0

Female:

Employment Category	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian or Pacific Islander	Indian or Alaskan Native
Project Manager	1	0	0	0	0
Professionals	3	0	0	0	0
Technical	0	0	0	0	0
Clerical	3	0	0	0	0
Labor	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7	0	0	0	0

Attachments

1. Professional Service Contract with ALTA Planning + Design, Inc. for the Development of the Downtown Durham Transportation Study.
2. Exhibits A, B and C